

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

UNCLAS STATE 063755

INFORM CONSULS

E. O.: 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, XX

SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS AFFECTING MEAT IMPORTS

REF: STATE 59573

1. RE CEILINGS PLACED ON US RED MEAT PRICES, COST OF LIVING COUNCIL AMENDMENTS TO PRICE AND PAY REGULATIONS FOLLOWING MARCH 29 PRESIDENTIAL ANNOUNCEMENT CONTAIN SPECIAL PARAGRAPH ALLOWING DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR PASS- THROUGH OF PRICE INCREASES OF IMPORTED MEAT. THUS US IMPORTERS OF AND DEALERS IN IMPORTED MEAT NOT RPT NOT RESTRICTED TO PRICE CEILING FORMULA DESCRIBED REFTEL BUT CAN PASS ON COST INCREASES ACTUALLY INCURRED AT IMPORT LEVEL OF TRADE AFTER MARCH 29. (IN OTHER WORDS, PRICE PAID BY MEAT IMPORTERS ON RPT ON, MARCH 29 IS BASE COST AGAINST WHICH LATER COSTS MUST BE COMPARED TO DETERMINE AMOUNT OF PRICE INCREASE WHICH MAY BE PASSED ON.) TEXT OF CLC PARAGRAPH FOLLOWS-

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2. BEGIN TEXT. IMPORTED MEAT ITEMS. NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF PARAGRAPH (A) OF THIS SECTION, ANY PERSON WHO IMPORTS AND SELLS MEAT ITEMS FROM OUTSIDE THE SEVERAL STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND EACH RESELLER OF SUCH ITEMS MAY PASS ON PRICE INCREASES FOR SUCH IMPORTED MEAT ITEMS INCURRED AFTER MARCH 29, 1973, ON A DOLLAR- FOR- DOLLAR BASIS. HOWEVER, THIS SUBSECTION SHALL NOT APPLY

TO MEAT ITEMS WHICH WERE ORIGR EFFORTS OF SULTAN QABOOS TO PRESERVE SECURITY AND UNITY OF OMAN AND TO IMPROVE LOT OF ITS PEOPLE. QABOOS EXTENDED AND ZAYID ACCEPTED INVITATION TO VISIT OMAN BUT NO DATE WAS SET. COMMITMENT TO EXCHANGE VISITS AND MAINTAIN CONTACT BETWEEN OFFICIALS OF TWO STATES WAS UNDERTAKEN AS WELL.

3. ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT PART OF OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE WHICH SUMMARIZED IN PRESS, DECISION WAS TAKEN DURING VISIT TO EXHCANGE AMBASSADORS. THIS DECISION WAS ANNOUNCED IN LOCAL PRESSILATER WITHOUT DETAILS. AS OF APRIL 1, UNDER SEC MFA GHUBASH SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHO MIGHT BE TAPPED AS UAE AMBASSADOR TO MUSCAT OR WHAT TIME FRAME FOR EXCHANGE WOULD BE.

4. COMMENT: DESPITE PUBLICITY WHICH SURROUNDED VISIT, VERY LITTLE IS KNOWN OF CONCRETE RESULTS AS YET. SULTAN WAS RECEIVED WITH FULL HONORS AND WAS WELCOMED ENTHUSIASTICALLY AT AIRPORT BY LARGE OMANI COMMUNITY IN ABU DHABI. VISIT WAS CONDUCTED UNDER STRINGENT SECURITY PRECAUTIONS AND, AT ONE POINT, SULTAN WAS TAKEN TO AL AIN BY HELICOPTER

RATHER THAN BY ROAD WHEN WORD OF POSSIBLE ATTACK ON HIS CAR WAS REC- EIVED.

5. THERE NO DEFINATIVE ESTIMATE OF AMOUNT OF MONETARY AID THE SULTAN RECEIVED BUT WE HAVE HEARD FIGURE OF 3 RPT 3 MILLION BAHRAINI DINARS (APPROX \$ 7.5 MIL) FGOM SEVERAL SOURCES. BRITISH EMBASSY OFFICE IN DUBAI DISCUSSED VISIT WITH SHEIKH RASHID SHORTLY AFTER SULTAN' S DEPARTURE AND RASHID SAID HE DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN TALKS RE ASSISTANCE. IT NOT CERTAIN BUT JOINT PUBLIC COMMITMENT TO ARABISM OF GULF MAY HAVE BEEN PRICE SULTAN PAID FOR AID, PARTI- CULARLY IN VIEW RECENT IRANIAN ROLE IN OMAN FIGHTING.

6. RASHID WAS IN EVIDENCE AT CEREMONIAL FUNCTIONS, ALTHOUGH BOTH HE AND SULTAN TENDED DEFER TO ZAYID. ACCORDING UK EMBASSY IN ABU DHABI, RASHID ALSO TOOK PART IN TALKS RE POSSIBLE COORDINATION AND EXCHANGE OF INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION CONCERNING PFLOAG AND INTERNAL SECURITY THREATS. BRITISH REPORT RASHID STRONG SUPPORTER THIS COOPERATION, BUT SAY ZAYID CUT DISCUSSION THIS SUBJECT SHORT AND NO ARRANGEMENT REACHED. BRITISH FEEL ZAYID ASSUME THIS POSITION BECAUSE OF PROMI-

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NENT POSITION BRITISH PERSONNEL IN SULTAN' S SECURITY APPARATUS.
ZAYID

REPORTEDLY MOST UPSET BY FACT SEVERAL BRITISH OFFICERS FORMERLY IN
ABU DHABI DEFENSE FORCE HAVE NOW JOINED SULTAN' S FORCES. BRITISH
HOPE, HOWEVER, COORDINATION OF INFORMATION AND COUNTER-
INTELLIGENCE
ACTIVITIES WILL BE INEVITABLE RESULT OF INCREASED CONTACT BETWEEN UAE
AND OMAN AND ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE IN TWO CAPITALS.
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